

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendment, the specification has been amended and claims 1, 8-10, 14, 22, and 24 will have been amended for consideration by the Examiner.

In view of the herein contained amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of each of the outstanding rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action, together with an indication of the allowability of all of the claims pending in the present application.

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's consideration of the documents cited in the Information Disclosure Statement filed in the present application by the return of the initialed and signed copy of the PTO-1449 Form accompanying the Information Disclosure Statement filed herein.

Applicant also notes with appreciation the Examiner's acceptance of the drawing filed June 20, 2000.

The Examiner has objected to the specification for the use of the abbreviation "mf." In response thereto, Applicants have amended the specification at page 4 to clarify that the "mf" is the abbreviation for microfarad as indicated by the Examiner. Applicant respectfully asserts that objection to the specification has been overcome.

The Examiner has also objected to claims 3, 4, 14, 16, and 24, for the same minor informality as noted above for the specification. Because the specification has been amended, as suggested by the Examiner, Applicants respectfully assert that the claims are no longer ambiguous.

Moreover, the Examiner has objected to claim 6 because of the minor informality of incorrect punctuation. In the present amendment, Applicant has amended claim 6 to

correct the punctuation. Applicant respectfully asserts that objection to claim 6 has been overcome.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 6, 7, 9, 10, 13, 22, and 23 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,240,178 to PETT et al.; rejected claims 2-4 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over PETT et al.; rejected claims 5, 24, and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over PETT et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,389,109 to SCHMIDT; rejected claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over PETT et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,622,442 to MARTIN; rejected claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over PETT et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,622,442 to CHARLES et al.; and rejected claims 14-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over PETT et al. in view of SCHMIDT and further in view of MARTIN and further in view of CHARLES.

Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections and asserts that they are inappropriate in view of the herein contained amendments and remarks.

The present invention, as set forth by claims 1 and 22, includes a bridgetap having a capacitance that reduces the effect of echo from the bridgetap line on a rate of data transmission. In particular, the bridgetap includes a capacitor in parallel with one of another capacitor or a diode.

With respect to the Examiner's rejection of independent claims 1 and 22, PETT et al. discloses a bridged tap 32 having a terminator which includes a filter 60. The PETT filter 60 is used to provide high impedance for POTS signals and low insertion loss of DSL signals.

Contrary to the aspect of the invention set forth in claims 1 and 22, PETT does not disclose, inter alia, a bridgetap having a capacitance that reduces the effect of echo from the bridgetap line on a rate of data transmission. Moreover, PETT does not disclose a bridgetap that includes a capacitor in parallel with one of another capacitor or a diode as recited by claims 1 and 22.

Because PETT fails to disclose each and every element recited in the claims, as noted above, in independent claims 1 and 22, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102. Moreover, there is no suggestion or disclosure in PETT or any of the other cited references separately or in any proper combination that renders obvious the combination of features of claims 1 and 22.

The aspect of the invention set forth in claim 14, includes a bridgetap having a capacitance that reduces the effect of echo from the bridgetap line on a rate of data transmission. In particular, the bridgetap includes a capacitor in parallel with one of another capacitor or a diode. Moreover, the adaptor has a capacitance of .04-2.0 microfarads.

PETT does not disclose, inter alia, a bridgetap having a capacitance of 04-2.0 microfarads that reduces the effect of echo from the bridgetap line on a rate of data transmission. Moreover, PETT does not disclose a bridgetap that includes a capacitor in parallel with one of another capacitor or a diode as recited by claim 14.

SCHMIDT discloses a method for detecting a fault in a subscriber line having two wires with separate input impedances. The MARTIN reference discloses an amplifier that forms an electronic hybrid circuit for coupling a two-wire communication path to a

four-wire communication path. CHARLES discloses a water-tight switchable load coil case.

SCHMIDT, MARTIN, and CHARLES also do not disclose, inter alia, a bridgetap having a capacitance of .04-2.0 microfarads that reduces the effect of echo from the bridgetap line on a rate of data transmission and, moreover, do not disclose a bridgetap that includes a capacitor in parallel with one of another capacitor or a diode as recited by the combination of claim 14.

With respect to the particular recited capacitance, the Examiner asserts that it would be obvious to modify the PETT capacitance of .023 microfarads to be within the claimed range of .04 –2.0 microfarads. Applicant respectfully traverses this modification. PETT does not disclose the claimed capacitance and Applicant asserts there is no proper motivation to modify the same in the manner indicated by the Examiner. The Examiner further asserts that there is no disclosed advantage, purpose or problem solved using the recited capacitance. In this regard, Applicant directs the Examiner's attention to pages 6 and 7 of the specification that set forth an increased data transmission rate when using the adaptor having the recited capacitance as set forth in the present invention.

Thus, Applicant asserts that the rejection of claim 14 is improper at least because there is no motivation to modify the PETT capacitance.

In view of the fact that there is no suggestion or disclosure in any of the applied references of PETT, SCHMIDT, MARTIN, or CHARLES, separately or in any proper combination, which disclose each and every element recited in claim 14, Applicant

asserts that the claim is not properly rejected as rendered obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

The claim 14 aspect of the present invention includes, inter alia, connecting a portion of a bridgetap with an adaptor having capacitance between approximately 0.04-2.0 mf and that includes a capacitor in parallel with one of another capacitor and a diode.

As noted above, neither PETT nor SCHMIDT discloses separately or in any proper combination, inter alia, a bridgetap that has a capacitance between approximately 0.04-2.0 mf and that includes a capacitor in parallel with one of another capacitor and a diode. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully asserts that claim 14 is not rendered obvious by the combination of PETT and SCHMIDT. Moreover, as noted above, the recited capacitance is furthermore not rendered obvious because the Examiner's does not have any proper motivation to modify the reference as set forth in the Official Action.

With regard to dependent claims 2-13, 15-21, 23, and 25, Applicant asserts that they are allowable on their own merit and at least because they depend on one of independent claims 1, 14, 22, and 24, which Applicant submits have been shown to be allowable.

In view of the fact that none of the art of record, whether considered alone or in any proper combination, discloses or suggests the present invention as defined by the pending claims, and in further view of the above remarks, reconsideration of the Examiner's action and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested and are believed to be appropriate.

Additionally, minor amendments have been made to claims 1 and 3-8 in order to improve the language thereof. In these amendments, Applicants have made several

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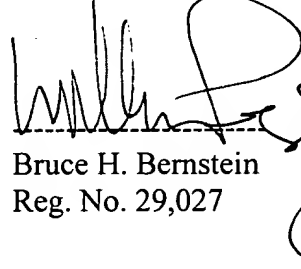
• changes to the language of the claims to render the same more self consistent, as well as
• more fully in compliance with U.S. syntax, idiom and grammar. These amendments do
not change the scope of the claims but are merely cosmetic changes that give rise to no
file wrapper estoppel.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Applicant has made a sincere effort to place the present application in condition for allowance and believe that he has now done so. Applicant has pointed out the specific language of Applicant's claims that define over the references of record and respectfully request an indication to such effect, in due course.

Should the Examiner have any questions, please contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,
Gregory D. OLSON


Bruce H. Bernstein
Reg. No. 29,027

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GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1950 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 716-1191